

BULLETIN BOARD

(Updated September 2004)

Home Health Agencies (HHAs): Clarification of Timing Requirements for Conducting the Comprehensive Assessment

CMS has sent a directive (S&C-04-45) dated September 9, 2004 clarifying that HHAs may develop their own comprehensive assessment for each required time point under the regulations at 42 CFR 484.55 for pediatric patients, maternity patients and those patients receiving personal care services only regardless of payor source. The assessment may be performed any time up to and including the 60th day from the most recent completed assessment.

Physician's Rubber Stamp Signature is Acceptable

Effective immediately, home health agencies (HHAs) and hospices may accept a physician's rubber stamp signature for their clinical record documentation if this is permitted by Federal, state, and local law and authorized by the HHA's and hospice's policy.

An HHA or hospice that accepts a physician's rubber stamp signature must obtain a signed statement from the physician attesting that he/she is the only one who has the stamp and uses it.

The Missouri Board of Healing Arts finds this an acceptable practice also.

The Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs finds the practice to be acceptable for plans of care and orders to administer

medications, including controlled substances. This would be the case if a facility had a stock of a medication. If an "order" is to be used as a prescription for a controlled substance, then that order must have an original signature of the prescriber (who must be an individual with independent controlled substance authority) --the signature stamp may not be used.

This direction **doesn't** apply to outpatient physical therapy providers as clarified with CMS.

Revised Home Health Aide Competency Evaluation

Our office has revised the Home Health Aide Competency Evaluation. For a revised copy, please download it from our website or call the office at 573/751-6336 to request a copy.

Important Information:

The bill passed the MO General Assembly that will allow physical therapists to accept orders from doctors in other jurisdictions. This bill will become law August 28, 2004.

Required alzheimer's training for those employed by home health and hospice agencies:

Below is a copy of the Section of RSMo 660.050 that addresses dementia specific training requirements. For a complete copy of Chapter 660, Section 660.050 refer to: <http://www.moga.state.mo.us/STATUTES/C660.HTM>.

8. The division shall, by January 1, 2002, establish minimum dementia-specific training requirements for employees

involved in the delivery of care to persons with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias who are employed by skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities, residential care facilities, agencies providing in-home care services authorized by the division of aging, adult day-care programs, independent contractors providing direct care to persons with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias and the division of aging. Such training shall be incorporated into new employee orientation and ongoing in-service curricula for all employees involved in the care of persons with dementia. The department of health and senior services shall, by January 1, 2002, establish minimum dementia-specific training requirements for employees involved in the delivery of care to persons with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias who are employed by home health and hospice agencies licensed by chapter 197, RSMo. Such training shall be incorporated into the home health and hospice agency's new employee orientation and ongoing in-service curricula for all employees involved in the care of persons with dementia. The dementia training need not require additional hours of orientation or ongoing in-service. Training shall include at a minimum, the following:

- (1) For employees providing direct care to persons with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias, the training shall include an overview of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, communicating with persons with dementia, behavior management, promoting independence in activities of daily living, and understanding and dealing with family issues;
- (2) For other employees who do not provide direct care for, but may have daily contact with, persons with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias, the training shall include an overview of dementias and communicating with persons with dementia.